



**Safe Roof Access & Ladder Safety for Facilities Managers**

# **7 Myths About Roof & Ladder Safety That Could Cost You**

**Discover the facts about ladder safety and roof access, debunk common myths, and learn how to implement better safety measures with LadderPort solutions.**

Facilities managers play a critical role in maintaining workplace safety, yet ladder and roof access risks are often underestimated. Falls from height are among the leading causes of workplace injuries, with severe financial and legal consequences. In this guide, we'll expose the myths surrounding ladder safety, provide real-world statistics, and offer practical solutions—including how LadderPort products can help improve compliance and reduce risks.



# Myth:

1

Permanent Ladders Are Always Safe



## Statistic:

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), ladder-related violations are consistently among the top 10 most frequently cited standards across various industries.

# Fact:

Permanent ladders may provide consistent access points, but they are not inherently safe. The fixed nature of these ladders can make them difficult to climb safely, as the body's natural tendency to lean back increases the risk of falling. This risk becomes even more dangerous when workers are carrying tools, motors, or other heavy equipment, as it affects balance and grip.

## Solution:

- Installing safety enhancements such as ladder receivers can improve stability and reduce fall risks by securing extension ladders in place, preventing shifting or falling during use.
- Training workers on best practices for ladder safety, including maintaining three points of contact, can prevent accidents.

3rd Most Cited Violation:  
**Ladders**



**2,978**  
VIOLATIONS

Industry: Construction  
Source: OSHA, FY 2023

# Myth:

2

Our Team Knows How to Use Ladders Correctly



# Fact:

Even experienced workers can make mistakes. Improper ladder use accounts for thousands of injuries annually.

## Solution:

- OSHA/BLS data shows that ongoing training is critical but not enough.
- Engineered safety solutions, such as grab bars and ladder receivers, add an extra layer of protection.

## Statistic:



**2020**

[Bureau of Labor Statistic](#)

**161**

Fatal Work Injuries  
Caused by Ladders

## Myth:

3

We Won't  
Be Fined for  
Roof & Ladder  
Issues



## Fact:

OSHA fines businesses thousands of dollars for non-compliance with ladder safety regulations.

## Solution:

- Adding grab bars, ladder receivers, and other safety measures ensures compliance.
- Conducting regular safety audits can help prevent costly penalties.

## Example:

A company was fined

**\$75,000**

for inadequate fall protection underscores the cost of non-compliance

## Myth:

4

Ladder Falls  
Are Rare &  
Not a Major  
Risk



## Fact:

Falls from ladders are one of the most common causes of workplace injuries and fatalities.

## Solution:

- Implement safer access points with ladder stabilizers that include hand grab bars.
- Train employees on best practices for ladder safety.

## Statistic:

### Ladder & Fall-Related Injuries:

- 22,710 injuries (CDC, 2020)
- 39.2 % of construction fatalities were from falls. (BLS, 2023)

While the BLS data does not specify ladder-related incidents, it underscores the ongoing risk of falls in the workplace.

Source: [CDC Reports](#) & [BLS](#)

## Myth:

5

### Vandalism & Unauthorized Access Aren't a Big Concern



## Fact:

Permanent ladders, even with gates, do not stop vandals from accessing the roof. Unauthorized roof access leads to liability risks, vandalism, and potential security breaches.

## Solution:

- Secure ladder access points with ladder receivers that hold extension ladders in place, ensuring stability and preventing unauthorized access. Additionally, removing the extension ladder when done eliminates easy availability to roof access for vandals.
- Remove permanent mount ladders that allow easy access to the roof, reducing the risk of unauthorized entry.

## Example:

Companies have faced lawsuits due to unauthorized individuals accessing roofs and getting injured.

## Myth:

6

### Roof Hatch Grab Bars Are Optional, Not Necessary



## Fact:

OSHA requires employers to provide fall protection where a fall hazard of six feet or more exists. Depending on hatch location, a cage and gate may also be required.

## Solution:

- LadderPort roof hatch grab bars provide a stable entry and exit point for workers.
- Installing grab bars significantly reduces the risk of falls at roof access points.

## Statistic:

Fall protection in construction tops the list of most cited OSHA Standards. [Top 10 Cited Standards](#)

# Myth:

7

## Investing in Safety Equipment Is Too Expensive



### Fact:

The cost of fines, lawsuits, and worker injuries far outweighs the cost of preventive safety measures. Maintenance managers frequently operate within tight budgets and demanding repair schedules. Strategic investments in safety measures not only enhance workplace protection but also minimize repair downtime and yield long-term cost savings.

### Solution:

- Investing in LadderPort solutions provides long-term value by reducing injuries and compliance risks.
- Safety improvements lead to lower insurance premiums and fewer workers' compensation claims.

### Example:

A single fall-related lawsuit can cost a company hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal and medical expenses.

Ladder and roof access safety isn't just about compliance—it's about protecting lives and avoiding costly liabilities. Facilities managers must take proactive steps to ensure safe access points and reduce risks.

### Next Steps:

- Assess your current ladder safety practices.
- Identify potential compliance gaps.
- [Visit LadderPort](#) for solutions that enhance safety and compliance.

#### Works Cited

- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

By implementing these safety measures, you'll not only ensure compliance but also create a safer working environment for your employees and contractors. Stay safe, stay compliant, and take action today!